

NEW YORK HERALD.

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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VOLUME XLIV. No. 351.

AMUSEMENTS TO-MORROW EVENING.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Fourteenth street.—ITALIAN OPERA.—MARIUS AT ROME.

NIHON GARDEN, Broadway.—IRELAND AS IT IS.—AN EVENING OF THE IRISH.

BOHEMIA THEATRE, Broadway.—AN ORIENTAL INTERLUDE.—LUCRETIA BORGIA.—LOVE AND LIES.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway, opposite Bond street.—DUTCH STRAITS.—PAULINE.

WALLACE'S THEATRE, Broadway.—THE NEW YORK BOYS.—THE NEW YORK BOYS.

LAURA KENNEDY'S THEATRE, 24 Broadway.—THE NEW YORK BOYS.—THE NEW YORK BOYS.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—THE NEW YORK BOYS.—THE NEW YORK BOYS.

THEATRE FRANCAISE, 58 Broadway.—THE NEW YORK BOYS.—THE NEW YORK BOYS.

BARNTON'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—THE NEW YORK BOYS.—THE NEW YORK BOYS.

WOOD'S MINISTRIES, 44 Broadway.—THE NEW YORK BOYS.—THE NEW YORK BOYS.

BRYANT'S MINISTRIES, Mechanics Hall, 42 Broadway.—THE NEW YORK BOYS.—THE NEW YORK BOYS.

BOULEVARD'S MINISTRIES, 44 Broadway.—THE NEW YORK BOYS.—THE NEW YORK BOYS.

HOPE CHAPEL, 229 Broadway.—THE NEW YORK BOYS.—THE NEW YORK BOYS.

New York, Sunday, October 30, 1859.

The News.

By the arrival of the Nova Scotia at Father Point, on her way from Liverpool to Quebec, yesterday morning, we have received news from Europe to the 19th inst. The advices are important.

A treaty of peace was signed between France and Austria on the 1st inst. A treaty between France and Sardinia would, it was alleged, be signed soon after the assembling of an European Congress, at which Sardinia, Spain, Sweden, Portugal, Naples and Rome would be represented, in addition to the five great Powers. Napoleon had demanded from Piedmont the payment of sixty millions of francs advanced to her for war purposes. Deputations from Parma and Tuscany had waited on Napoleon. The French troops would remain in Rome awaiting the execution of government reforms. This progress would, it was alleged, be pressed on the Pope by the Archbishop of Bordeaux, who was to visit Rome. Fruitless attempts had been made at revolution in Venice and the Tyrol. The Pope, it was said, would soon address a manifesto to the States of the Church, acting in concert with Napoleon.

Changes in the French Cabinet were again anticipated.

Letters from China confirm the report of Mr. Ward's favorable reception at Peking.

Morocco had, it was said, given satisfaction to Spain.

The Great Eastern remained at Holyhead, but nothing was officially known as to the date of her departure for America.

Cotton was unchanged in Liverpool, and holders offered stocks freely. Breadstuffs had a downward tendency. Provisions were dull.

Consols were quoted at 96 1/2 a 96 3/4, both for money and account, in London.

Our Havana correspondents, writing on the 23d inst., furnish the details of the news from Cuba to that date. Twenty-one Chinese apprentices, who had run away from their master, murdered him when put to work after their arrest. The African slave trade was flourishing vigorously. A fine scene was presented in the port by the number of American steamers at anchor. A force of free negroes and militiamen had been drafted into the militia. By telegraph from Savannah we have Havana dates to the 25th inst. Sugar was buoyant and freights active.

We have news from the West Indies, dated at Kingston, Jamaica, on the 11th inst. The weather was very favorable, but the public health was not quite so good. The Chinese laborers were usefully at work. The bark Laura, captured on the coast of Africa by the British war ship Archer, had arrived in port. She was supposed to be an American slave.

We have advices from Rio Janeiro to the 1st inst. There were one hundred and seventy vessels in port at that date, including the United States ships Lancaster and John Adams, and the brig Dolphin. The stock of coffee on hand amounted to eighty thousand bags.

A despatch from New Orleans announces the arrival of the United States sloop-of-war Saratoga at Pensacola with important despatches for the Mexican Minister at Washington. The report of the murder of Mr. Chase, American Consul, by Marquez, one of Miramont's partisans, is confirmed.

The steamship Bremen sailed from this port yesterday for Southampton and Bremen, with 157 passengers and \$202,620 in specie.

The testimony in the case of Old Brown, the leader in the Harper's Ferry raid, was concluded yesterday. The evidence for the defence was mainly as to Brown's considerate treatment of his prisoners. The prosecution desired to submit the case to the jury without argument, but Brown insisted upon his counsel making an appeal to the jury. Accordingly one of the Commonwealth's attorneys addressed the Court and jury, and at the conclusion of his remarks the Court adjourned till Monday, when the counsel for the prisoner will sum up. The prisoner has three lawyers to defend him, namely, Messrs. Hoyt, of Boston; Clifton, of Washington, D.C.; and Griswold, of Cleveland, Ohio.

Up to a late hour last night no change had taken place in the position of the steamer New World. She still lies aground, headed to the Jersey shore, within a few hundred yards of dry land. Several steamers, sloops and boats were busily engaged yesterday conveying freight from the sanken steamer to the company's dock, and a posse of police kept watch to prevent depredations upon the remaining property. Another search was instituted yesterday for bodies, but none were found. The floating furniture in the ladies' saloon was thoroughly overhauled, but without avail. It may be that some bodies are under the water, which is three or four feet in depth in the saloon, but the impression of those who made the search is that everybody was saved, and the fact that nobody is missing, so far as known, seems to verify it.

We were unable to get the whole of Mr. Old Brown's Philadelphia speech of Friday night in time for our yesterday's edition. As the omitted part bore particularly on his connection with Ossawatimie Brown, we deem it but just to Mr. Old Brown to make it public, and we therefore publish to-day the entire speech.

The sales of cotton yesterday reached about 1,200 a 1,500 bales, closing steadily on the basis of about 11 1/2c for middling upland. Flour was heavy and more freely bid, and closed at a decline of from 5c to 10c per bbl. for common and medium brands, while good to high extra grades were unchanged. Wheat was 2c a 2 1/2c

for some descriptions, while sales were to a fair extent. The supplies of corn were light, and holders quoted firm, with sales of mixed and Southern yellow at \$1 a 1 1/4 per bushel. Pork was dull, with the time of the market in favor of purchasers, who sales of mess at \$12 1/2 a \$13 1/2, and prime at \$10 1/2 a \$11 1/2. Sugar was firm and in good demand, with sales of about 1,500 bags. Coffee was in steady prices, and 7,000 bags of Java and 10,000 of Rio de Janeiro were sold. The market for coffee in the afternoon was quiet, but the value in the afternoon was raised 1/2c per lb. by the sale of about 2,000 bags of Rio at full price. Freight rates were unchanged, while engagements were moderate.

Our Relations with England—Danger of a Rupture.

It will be seen from our special despatch from Washington this morning that we are in considerable danger of another diplomatic rupture with England.

There are some curious coincidences in the present state of our relations with England and those which existed in the fall and winter of 1855. At that time Lord Aberdeen was Prime Minister and Lord Palmerston was Minister of Foreign Affairs in England. Palmerston, with his usual needlessness and overbearing policy, had got into difficulty with us on the enlistment question, and had at the same time the Chinese difficulty on his hands. He endeavored to browbeat Secretary Marcy into an acquiescence with his blustering enlistment policy, but Marcy was not to be bluffed off, and not only maintained his position with power and logic, but finally sent the British Minister and a couple of Consuls home to help Lord Palmerston see the position of the United States in its true light. A parliamentary crisis followed, and Aberdeen and Palmerston were obliged to go before the country on the American and Chinese questions. The people of England elected them to stay out, and they gave way to the Derby ministry. The difficulties with us were settled as soon as Palmerston's braggadocio manner was stopped, and Lord Napier, who succeeded Mr. Crampton, was the most popular British Minister that has ever been seen in this country.

Palmerston is again in office, not as Secretary for Foreign Affairs, but as Prime Minister, with Lord John Russell in the Foreign Department. Again the American and Chinese questions are up in England, and both of them likely to lead to trouble. Our Washington correspondent assures us that Lord John Russell's despatch to our government, in regard to San Juan Island, is peremptory, and anything but peaceful. We have no doubt of the fact. The British statesmen have been much more communicative to the English journals than ours have been to the papers here, and from their tone we have been well aware that a strong game of brag on their part was going on. They are not at all afraid to let the people of England see the stand they have taken, and have exhibited no doubt a good show of pluck. We do not see any good reason why our government should be so desirous of hiding what they have done, if they have done what is right. The day of secret diplomacy has long since gone by, and it is only when a public man has taken a position which he fears he cannot hold, or that he is afraid will not meet the spirit of the people, that he resorts to the old foggy system of secret diplomacy.

In this matter of San Juan Palmerston is playing the braggadocio again towards us, as he did in the enlistment question, and as he would have done in regard to the right of search, had he not slipped his official wind just as his scheme came out. Now, in the matter of San Juan, our claim is beyond a quibble, and Gen. Harney has done perfectly right in taking possession, acting, no doubt, under instructions of the government, but instructions given in that vague and mean-much-or-mean-nothing style usual in government orders. The spirit of the whole country sustains Harney, and we trust the government is not going to disavow what he has done. If the dispute had not turned on San Juan Island it would have come up on some other point. We might have given up island after island, and yet Palmerston would have found ground for dispute and farther claim, and the old British plan, so successfully followed in the Northeastern boundary and the 54 40 line, would have been pursued. There is no other way of meeting this game of brag than to show to Palmerston that he can have a fight if he wants it. He is one of those kind of bullies that is always belligerent till he finds some one who is perfectly willing to knock him down at sight, and then he is as mild as a lamb. We trust our government are not committing the mistake of endeavoring to pacify him with soft words and plain reasons. Such a course will only bring about the rupture they are designed to prevent.

The Democratic Vigilant Association and Chevalier Webb.—The Democratic Vigilant Association have appointed a committee to confer with one of the political parties with reference to the nominations for Mayor, Corporation Counsel, Aldermen and Councilmen, and this is the first step they have taken as a preliminary to their action in the municipal election. The Chevalier Webb is beginning to think that they are a very respectable body of men, worthy of some attention, and that some good may come out of their movement. There is no doubt that many of them are very rich, and in the aggregate represent, perhaps, some twenty millions of dollars, and can raise in a moment a hundred thousand to carry out their purpose. This might explain the reason why the Chevalier Webb has begun to think them worthy of his most respectful consideration. When the United States Bank was started it was a monster in the eyes of the Chevalier, but when it shelled out fifty-two thousand dollars, it became to the plastic mind of Webb not only a very respectable institution, but of the greatest service to the country. We have some suspicion that the Chevalier has discovered fifty-two thousand good reasons, without mining, for respecting the Democratic Vigilant Association.

Candidates for Senators and Assemblymen.—There are now some eighty or a hundred candidates in nomination for Senators and Assemblymen to represent the districts of this city in the Legislature next session, of whom at least two-thirds are entirely unfit in every respect for those positions. We know, by the bitter experience of the past few years, what a ruinous influence our legislative representatives at Albany can exercise upon the affairs of this metropolis, and too much caution cannot be used in selecting proper men. The Democratic Vigilant Association should scrutinize carefully the characters of the parties now in nomination, and give the public the benefit of their investigation.

THE HON. MASS. GREELEY IN TROUBLE.—The Hon. Mass. Greeley is in what they call Down Hill "a pack of troubles" about the Harper's Ferry affair, and the revelations of Col. Forbes, which connect the Tribune philosopher, more or less, with the operations of Old Brown and his traitorous associates. Greeley has made haste to publish a card, but his attempt to clear himself from the bad company he has been mixed up with is very cloudy. According to all accounts the general government is preparing to investigate very thoroughly all the underplot of the Brown matter, and to bring all the parties implicated to condign punishment. So it is possible that the Hon. Mass. Greeley may be indicted, tried and convicted of high treason. If he should be so unlucky, we promise to use all our vast influence with the President to procure for him a free pardon. We can't spare the Hon. Mass. Greeley just yet.

At the same time, while we will cheerfully assist our cotemporary out of his last scrape, we would warn him to be more careful in future. All his troubles arise from his neglecting to profit by our advice, given to him over and over again. Against our counsel he got involved in the Irish rebellion matter, and many people hold him responsible for the forty thousand and odd dollars collected for "Eria go Bragh" and never heard of since, here, there, or anywhere else. Then there was the Kosuth humbug, also pecuniary in its tendencies, and that to a round sum. Another call for cash and human freedom produced a large sum wherewith Kansas was to be liberated, and in this is included the sum of twenty dollars given to help Colonel Forbes in his military operations against the border ruffians. Then came the celebrated Des Moines Rapids Improvement Company, with their thousand dollar check, which Greeley kept for Matteson; and, running along, a number of small scrapes—Fourierite, spiritualists, Galway Steamship Company, Crystal Palace, &c., &c.

Our advice to Greeley and other philosophers of the same school is, as before, to refrain from attempting to tinker up society or cure political systems by upsetting them; to keep clear of all sorts of stock jobbing operations; to mend their own manners, and attend strictly to their own private affairs.

POLITICAL EXCITEMENT ON THE RISE.—There are now some three or four State elections under way, viz: in New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and in some of the Western States, and a great political excitement is attending them everywhere in consequence of the attempted rebellion at Harper's Ferry. Galusha Groves, of Pennsylvania; Tom Corwin, of Ohio, and Senator Wilson, of Massachusetts, are prowling about this State looking after our State election. The present political activity is due entirely to the Harper's Ferry conspiracy, and that event will certainly give a new complexion to all the coming elections.

There is no doubt that both the nigger-worshippers of the North and the nigger-drivers of the South got up the fight in Kansas, and committed many lawless acts—probably were guilty of treason—but in the confusion and violence of the hour it did not receive the legal attention of the government or the country at large. The Harper's Ferry rebellion is but a second edition of the Kansas affair, and both are the result of the repeal of the Missouri compromise.

The unfortunate men who took up arms at Harper's Ferry were unquestionably spirited on by Seward, Wilson and other republican leaders, and these gentlemen are, by this atrocious outrage, placed on the defensive. They stand before the public responsible for the conspiracy and the bloodshed in which it resulted—practical traitors and conspirators against the peace of the Union. The extraordinary political activity observable at the present time has been brought about by the discovery that leading Senators, Congressmen, Governors and ex-Governors of States were cognizant of this first notable conspiracy against the government, if not direct aiders and abettors of it, and hence the fluttering in the dovecotes of the republican party. The Harper's Ferry rebellion is but the practical issue of all the anti-slavery agitation, which is nothing better than an anti-Union crusade, and the effect of it will be most marked on all the pending State elections, and still more so on the Presidential contest of next year.

THE HARPER'S FERRY INVASION.—THE DUTY OF THE GOVERNMENT AT WASHINGTON.—"Old Brown's" invasion of Harper's Ferry, in the first place, involves the crime of treason against the United States. His first overt act was the seizure, by force of arms, of the government arsenal at Harper's Ferry. He and his surviving confederates, therefore, present and absent, should first have been claimed by the federal government on the charge of treason; and the United States Attorney, Ould, of the District of Columbia, who was on the ground, should have insisted upon the retention of the prisoners by the United States marines for the purposes of this trial. We dare say, however, that the State of Virginia will do full justice to the prisoners at Charlestown; but there are other guilty parties still at large, guilty—more or less, as accessories before the fact, in this plot of treason, insurrection and revolution; and these men may still be attended to by the government at Washington. The names of some of them have been disclosed among the papers of Brown's carpet bag; the names of others have been disclosed by Colonel Forbes, and many more can doubtless be found out by an active federal detective here and there. Let the administration, then, proceed to this business of extirpating this Harper's Ferry treason to the very roots, including the men who instigated, aided and encouraged "Old Brown," as well as his desperate followers, on his terrible mission of insurrection and slaughter.

THE WATER QUESTION IN BROOKLYN.—We see that the Brooklyn Water Commissioners have succeeded in obtaining a peremptory mandamus from the courts, directing the Comptroller to pay the bonds issued to the contractors for continuing the work on the conduit, and for pumping the water into the reservoir. The question was entirely one of spoils. The Brooklyn Common Council wanted to get the matter out of the hands of the Commissioners, and, consequently, encouraged the Comptroller in his refusing to honor their drafts. But the courts very properly stepped in and put an end to the controversy. It was bad enough for the politicians to attempt to stop the supply of water, but when they try to shut off the water, it is time to squelch them.

THE INSANITY OF BROWN.—One of our Boston cotemporaries—the Evening Traveller—says:—"We earnestly hope that the State of Virginia and Governor Wise will not allow the martyrdom of Old Brown;" that "it would be an everlasting disgrace to the State to hang him, for a more decided case of monomania was never exhibited." But in lieu of hanging, our Boston "humanitarian" recommends that Brown "and all such" be put into some lunatic asylum for safe keeping. This plea of insanity, with a little stretching, might be made to apply to every traitor, murderer, highwayman or incendiary, of high or low degree, throughout the country, upon the broad and unanswerable ground that no man in his right mind would take up arms against the government, or commit murder or highway robbery, or set fire to a neighbor's house. But we cannot admit this plea in behalf of Brown without involving all the preachers of abolitionism, all the teachers of "the higher law," and of the "irrepressible conflict" of the Rochester manifesto in this sweeping accusation of insanity.

Brown's revolutionary experiment at Harper's Ferry was nothing more than the practical interpretation of Seward's programme for the extinction of slavery, and if there is insanity in Brown for practicing what Seward preaches, there must be insanity in Seward, Giddings, Hale, and all such political leaders, in preaching what Brown has put into practice. Thus, upon either horn of the dilemma, treason or insanity, the shining lights of the republican party must be condemned. If they are traitors, they deserve the penalty of hanging; if they are insane, they should be treated as lunatics by all sensible men. In teaching Brown his bloody instructions, however, and in keeping themselves out of harm's way, our black republican apostles of human freedom have rendered themselves more shamefully culpable than Brown and his chosen band of armed crusaders. There is so much of method in this sort of madness, that really we think the admission of the plea of insanity in behalf of Brown would be fully as to Brown himself, and a dangerous example of clemency in regard to his more guilty confederates who are still at large.

THE PRINTING JOBBERS IN DISTRESS.—An article which appeared in yesterday's Herald has acted as a sort of bombshell in the lobby, and we have received from Mr. A. D. Banks (we shan't call him "Little Banks" any more, but rather big Banks, as he was big enough to sell the votes of the Virginia delegation in the last Congress for forty thousand dollars) the following note:

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

In your paper of this morning you are pleased to say such a number of characteristically pleasant "little" things of me which it is important to deny. There is one point, however (once reference to it has been made in other quarters), on which I desire you will permit me to say a word in explanation, and that is in reference to the printing of the coming Congress, which you represent me as being busily engaged in an interview with Mr. Forney and others to secure. I simply desire to say that I never have spoken one word with Mr. Forney or anybody else on that subject during my sojourn in New York.

Yours truly, A. D. BANKS.

We print Mr. Banks' letter with pleasure, but we are sorry to say that it proves nothing in particular. What we said was simply this: that Banks and others were here, and were said to be laying pipe for the printing of the next Congress, while ostensibly working for Mr. Douglas. When the proper time arrived they would ask for the votes of the Douglas democrats in the House, with a good chance of getting them. Previous to that time it would not be necessary for Banks to speak "a word to Mr. Forney, or anybody else," on the subject of the printing job. The clever lobby man never says directly what he wants, but is always ready to take advantage of anything good that turns up. We never thought Mr. Banks or any of his set were foolish enough to talk about the House printing here and now. That they are after it with a stick sharpened at both ends Mr. Banks will not deny.

COLLISION ON THE BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD.—The accommodation train on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, which left Wheeling on Thursday morning last, met, one mile east of Manassas, the freight train going West, the latter train being ahead of time, owing to the conductor mistaking the time he should leave one station for that of another. Both locomotives were badly smashed, as were also several of the cars. The passengers, strange to say, escaped without serious injury.

Mr. Sloan, President of Hudson River Railroad, was riding on the engine of the passenger train, and, with the engineer and fireman, jumped before the collision. Mr. Sloan, falling among some broken stones, was severely cut and bruised, but not seriously. Mr. D. T. Vail, President of Troy and Boston Railroad, and Mr. Cohen, Assistant Superintendent of the Hudson Railroad, were in the passenger car, and sustained slight injury. The fireman and engineers were but slightly injured, and no one was killed. The passenger train, at the time of the collision, was running at the rate of twenty miles an hour, and the freight train about fifteen miles. Coming around a sharp curve, they were not in view till too late to prevent the collision.

Personal Intelligence.

We are informed that Senor Orvedo and lady have taken rooms at the Brevoort House, and not at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, as has been reported.

We understand that the famous Monsieur Felix Belly, who is going to our continent in two, is now in our midst, probably to carry out his great project. Like the crowded families of Europe, when travelling, the great French engineer has assumed a new name, and is now stopping at the St. Nicholas Hotel. He is the same man as Alexander Smith, under whose Kosuth left this country for Europe.

The Case of James Shephard Remitted to the Sessions.—Stephens not yet Resentenced.

SUPREMACY COURT.—GENERAL TERM.

Before the Hon. Judges Roosevelt (P. J.) Clarke and Sutherland.

Oct. 29.—At the sitting of the Court, Mr. Sedgwick, Assistant District Attorney, stated that James Shephard (convicted of arson in the first degree) was now in Court, ordered the remitter from the Court of Appeals, ordering a new trial and sending the case to the Sessions. An order was then entered, remitting the case to the Court of Sessions for a new trial.

The Court asked if there was any other business for the general term.

Mr. Sedgwick answered in the negative. He said the District Attorney did not intend to present to make any motion in the matter of James Stephens, convicted of poisoning his wife, and that he would leave the case to the Court of Appeals to grant a new trial.

The presiding Justice said that the Court had met to decide the concluding argument in the Polles case. None of the counsel for the Police Commissioners were present. Mr. McKoon said that he understood that Mr. Field was under the impression that the Police case had been adjourned to one o'clock.

The Court took a brief recess, and at one o'clock Mr. Field arrived and commenced his argument for the Police Commissioners.

United States District Court.

Before Hon. Judge Duff.

SENTENCE FOR SMUGGLING.

Oct. 29.—The United States Charles Warren and John Reiga.—A quantity of jewelry which the defendants attempted to smuggle, but which was seized by Messrs. Brown and Isaacs, special revenue officers, was confiscated to the government after trial. The defendants were also indicted criminally by the grand jury, for an offence against the revenue laws. They now stand before the Court on plea of not guilty and pleaded guilty. In consideration of the fact of the confiscation of the goods the judge said he would sentence the defendants to pay a fine of \$1,000 each in Eldridge street jail and to pay a fine of \$1,000 each.

During the sittings of the Court this month, there were no less than twenty-two reverses caused of sentence, in all of which the government obtained verdicts of conviction through the instrumentality of Inspectors Brown and Isaacs.

ARCHIVAL OF THE NOVA SCOTIAN.

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM EUROPE.

A Treaty of Peace Signed Between France and Austria.

A General European Congress to be Assembled.

Napoleon's Financial Demands on Piedmont.

No Notice of the Final Departure of the Great Eastern.

HON. MR. WARD'S ENTRY INTO PEKIN CONFIRMED.

THE MARKETS.

THE GREAT EASTERN.

THE NEWS FROM ITALY.

THE WAR IN CHINA.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

News from Mexico and Texas.

News from Rio Janeiro.

The Case of James Shephard Remitted to the Sessions—Stephens not yet Resentenced.

Arrival of the Overland Mail.

News from the Plains.

Burning of the Ship Planter.

Death of Hon. James C. Jones.

IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON.

The San Juan Island Question.—The Reply of Gen. Canby to Lord John Russell's Serious Diplomatic Rupture with Great Britain.—New Postal Facilities Between the East and South.—Gen. Vanderbilt's Designs in Nicaragua, &c., &c.

OUR SPECIAL WASHINGTON DESPATCH.

Great reserve is manifested by all the members of the government in regard to the character of the despatches recently sent to Mr. Palmerston, our Minister in London, touching the San Juan Island affair. I am assured from a trustworthy source that negotiations of a very serious character are pending between the two governments, and that we are much nearer to a violent rupture with England than is generally supposed. It is known that the despatch of Lord John Russell to our government is peremptory, and its whole tenor anything but peaceful, and would require some forbearance on our part. It is neither conciliatory nor pacific, as has been stated. It demands full explanations of the conduct of Harney. It is very evident that the government does not want this to be known; hence their desire to keep it quiet.

The reply of our government is firm, dignified and decided, maintaining our right to the island in an able, clear, comprehensive argument, backed up by documents treasured in their character. But to show to the British Ministry that our intentions are honorable, and that we adhere to the stipulations entered into by Governor Marcy, on the part of our government, and Lord Palmerston, and General Scott have been communicated to Mr. Dallas. What the exact nature of the instructions are has not transpired. But it is evident that they are conciliatory, and that in them Harney's conduct is disavowed, else they would not have been sent to London.

England maintains her right to the island, and, judging from the tone of the despatch, does not intend to yield. Our government maintains a clear and undisputed right to the island, and will not yield one inch. The matter is now under negotiation between the two governments. There is good reason to believe that it is, in its present shape, not only serious, but threatening, and that is the reason why our government is so quiet upon the subject. What is here stated you may rely upon.

A number of railroad presidents from every part of the country are now in Washington looking after the great mail contract, the bids for which will be opened on Tuesday. The service is to be from Portland, Maine, to New Orleans, and for four years. The Postmaster General will not be able to decide probably till two or three days after, opening the bids.

There is great excitement among the railroad men on account of the magnitude of the contract and the large interests involved. The Postmaster General will make the contract with but some one party or company, so that whoever takes the contract must arrange with all the railroad companies on the route. The railroad Presidents complain of this condition, as being difficult or impracticable; but Mr. Holt insists that under the old system of many contractors, often with rival interests, the mail service has been miserably performed, and he is determined, in order to make it regular and efficient, to make one party responsible by giving ample security, and not to be paid whenever the mails do not reach their destination in schedule time.

The Postmaster General will decide upon the bid most advantageous to the public interests, as regards time, amount of mail matter taken from and through large centers of population, and the amount of compensation. There will not be probably more than three bids for the through service, one by the old seaboard route, by Wilmington to Charleston, and then by steamer to Florida, by railroad across Florida, and steamer to New Orleans; another by the Central Railroad, through Virginia and Tennessee; and the other through New York or Pennsylvania and Ohio. The service to commence on the 1st of January. The Postmaster General expects to have his service from Portland to New Orleans performed, before long, in four days. This will be the largest mail contract ever made in the United States.

To make the postal service more satisfactory, Mr. Holt is dismissing all mail agents who neglect their duty or are inefficient. He pays no attention to political appointments or disqualifications. He will reform the whole system. He is preparing also to report to Congress against the practice heretofore prevailing of authorizing local and comparatively useless contractors. It is believed he will make a startling exhibit of the millions squandered for carrying mails where there is no mail to carry.

Mr. Vanderbilt has been here, and the Post Office Department is satisfied he intends to go earnestly to work to open the Nicaragua route. It is believed Mr. Vanderbilt will go out to Nicaragua himself and make the necessary arrangements.

Arrest of a Fugitive Slave at Columbus, Ohio.

COLUMBUS, O., Oct. 29, 1859.

John Tyler, a fugitive slave, who escaped from Campbell county, Va., in 1854, was arrested here yesterday, and brought before Commissioner Newhall, who remanded him to his owners. He was then taken to Covington.

Burning of the Michigan State Normal School.

YPSILANTI, Mich., Oct. 29, 1859.

The State Normal School building, with two libraries, furniture and the laboratory, were consumed by fire last night. Loss \$25,000; insured for \$10,000.

Fire in Boston.

BOSTON, Oct. 29, 1859.

A fire broke out this morning in the rear of No. 292 Cambridge street, which destroyed six buildings, most of them of no great value. Robert Parkins, furniture dealer, White & Kenney, restaurant keepers; J. C. Carr, and G. W. Learned, are among the sufferers.

Commerce of Mobile.

MOBILE, Oct. 29, 1859.

The exports of the past week from this port amount to \$97,760.

Markets.

PHILADELPHIA STOCK BOARD.

Stocks inactive. Pennsylvania Railroad, 30 1/2; Reading Railroad, 19 1/2; Morris Canal, 48; Long Island Railroad, 10 1/2; Pennsylvania Railroad, 37 1/2.

Cotton unchanged; sales to-day 2,500 bales middling at 10 1/2c. Sales of the week, 25,000 bales. Receipts, 26,500 bales.

Flour firm. Wheat dull. Corn 56 1/2c. Provisions dull, and lower. Bacon 9 1/2c. Whiskey—Ohio, 27 1/2c.

Flour dull; sales 1,000 bbls. at 86 1/2c. for superfine. Wheat buoyant; sales 5,000 bushels white at \$1 3/4 a \$1 1/2. Corn firm; sales 4,000 bushels yellow at 95c. a 96c. Whiskey dull at 28c. a 28 1/2c.

Arrivals and Departures.